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**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No. 16683-1-2

#33  
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*1/20/04*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re RCE of:

GERALD BLATT

Application No. 09/289,000

Filed: February 25, 1997

For: JOINT TREATING METHOD

Customer No. 20350

Confirmation No. 8112

Examiner: P. Prebilic

Technology Center/Art Unit: 3738

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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**NOV 14 2003**

San Francisco, CA 94111  
November 7, 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R37

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies applicant's RCE that is being filed following the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated September 26, 2003.

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.